

Amendments to the specification:

To page 1, line 1, please amend the title as follows:

~~Process for the Preparation~~Method for the Production of Statins

To page 1, line 5, after the title, please insert the following sentence:

-- This application is a Rule 371 U.S. National Phase Filing of PCT/EP04/012659, filed November 9, 2004, which, in turn, claims priority to German Patent Application No. 103 52 659.5 filed November 11, 2003, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. --